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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/820,259 Confirmation No.: 7506

Applicant(s): Mott et al.

Filed: 4/7/2005

Art Unit: 1732

Examiner: Ortiz, Angela Y.

Title: Integrated Flange Seal Electrical Connection

Attorney Docket No.: 003C.0004.U2 (US)

Customer No.: 29,683

Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Response to Office Action

Sir:

This is in response to the office action mailed 07/05/2005. Claims 18, 20-22, 25-28 and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onoda (US 6,187,242) in view of Bickford et al. (US 6,506,083). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 18 is a method claim. The method is a method for forming a fuel flange. The method includes forming two tortuous paths; a first tortuous path between the electrical connector and the connector body, and a second tortuous path between the connector body and the fuel flange. The electrical connector has first ribs that form the first tortuous path when the connector body is formed around the electrical connector. The connector body comprises a substantially uniform series of second ribs looping around an exterior of the connector body which, in combination with the